

February 10, 1975

or legislative interest. So they said, would it be possible, in the next session, that we come into some of your committee hearings. In the afternoon where you have particular bills that are of general interest to the public of Nebraska, could we televise some of those programs. The Exec. Board thought it over for a month and then the next month, we came back in August, and we stated to them that we thought this would be favorable that they could come in the afternoon and pick programs. But they said also this is hinging on the fact that we can get the proper kind of camera equipment and other things that are necessary. Then comes the new session. Ron Hull from that Department came to me as the new Exec. Board chairman and said, Senator Mahoney it's not possible that we're going to be able to do the thing that we'd like to do . . . come into the committee hearings because of several factors which will include the cost of extra projectors and so forth. He said we have something here we could try and we think we could give it a chance. We'd like to offer you an alternate or compromise. We will put on two programs and we can do these two programs in color and it will not be very expensive because we won't have to do them here in the chamber. We won't have to send the signal out, which costs more money. But it can be done in color and could you tell me what do you think in your estimation are some subject matters that would be of general interest. Ron Hull, Roland Luedtke, none of them are to blame. They didn't even, at that point, know what was in the legislative hopper that was interesting. So I took my little black book and I came down the line and I came through all these subject matters we found about three things we thought were very important. It was my suggestion, not Hull's, that the first program that would be most interesting would be this penal reform. We've been hearing about it for two to four years. Across the state of Nebraska it's a program that everybody is wanting to know the pro's and the con's. Ron Hull sent me a general letter in which he was trying to put together some of the items that he would be doing in the program. As Senator Barnett has stated to you, there would be a change in the format. There wouldn't be this panel of the Department of Humanities. It would be done by one of the fellow senators here, who would say at the opening of this program, we are going to have the public hearing now on the penal reform bill. This is the statement of intent, now we will go to the committee hearing. Senator Luedtke, in this particular hearing, would preside as chairman. The people who would appear in this hearing room in the Capitol would be speaking for and against the subject matter. It's really not as big a thing as you can see. I'm really sorry that Senator Kelly has placed so many doubts in your mind. Because there really isn't that much to it. This is going to be a program in which they have in their regular budget. They should be complimented by the fact that we in Nebraska, which is the first to have E.T.V., will be sort of the first to have a general committee hearing. I don't . . . I have not been one of the strongest supporters of E.T.V. in this body. I have been the greatest doubting Thomas of all. In past Executive Boards I have been out voted sometimes 8 to 1 to take T.V. completely off the floor. Here I can see no harm. I think it's a program that will